

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a planar base portion; and
a protrusion coupled to and having a sidewall portion extending perpendicularly
from the base portion, the protrusion having dimensions to fit within a consuming
opening of a detachable conical shaped lid of a transportable beverage container and to
fit within the consuming opening, and a thickness to extend into the consuming
opening when the base portion lies on a surface of the lid,
wherein the base portion is separable from the lid and has a dimension such that
it is grippable by a consumer of the beverage container.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base portion is formed of one of
plastic, paper, cardboard and cardstock.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusion is formed of a
material similar or comparable with a material for the base portion.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the protrusion formed of a
deformable material, the deformable material capable of contracting and expanding to
fill openings having a range of shapes and sizes.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base portion and protrusion are
reusable.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base portion and protrusion are
easily transportable.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a dimension of the base portion
conforms to a shape of a portion of the lid.
8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a planar base portion having a planar body formed of a first material; and

a protrusion formed of a second material connected to a surface of the base portion, the protrusion to fill an opening in a lid of a container, wherein the second material is different than the first material, and wherein, when the protrusion is in an opening of a lid of a container, the surface of base portion contacts the lid.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the base portion is formed of one of plastic, paper, cardstock and cardboard.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the protrusion is formed of one of plastic, paper, cardboard, cardstock and cardboard.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the base portion and protrusion are independent of the lid.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the base portion and protrusion are reusable.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the base portion and protrusion are easily transportable.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a base portion, the base portion including an attachment region to couple the base portion to a key chain; and
a protrusion to fill an opening in a lid of a container, the protrusion coupled to and having a portion extending perpendicularly from the base portion.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the base portion and protrusion are formed of one of plastic, paper, cardstock and cardboard.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the attachment region forms one of a hole, a ring and a clasp in the base portion.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the base portion and protrusion are independent of the lid.
18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the base portion and protrusion are reusable.
19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the base portion and protrusion are easily transportable.
20. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:
inhibiting a liquid in a beverage container containing a detachable conical shaped lid from escaping through a consuming opening in ~~a~~the lid of the beverage container utilizing a protrusion coupled to and a portion extending perpendicularly from a base portion of an apparatus,
wherein the protrusion ~~fits~~has a dimension to fit within the consuming opening of the lid of the beverage container, and
wherein the base portion has a planar body from a surface of which the protrusion protrudes and is separable from the lid and has a dimension such that it is grippable by a consumer of the beverage container.
21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:
removing the protrusion from the consuming opening of the lid to enable the liquid to escape through the consuming opening when the consumer wants to consume the liquid in the beverage container.
22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:
replacing the protrusion within the consuming opening of the lid of the beverage container to inhibit the liquid from escaping through the consuming opening of the lid.